

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by Davis. Based on the amendments to the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Claim 1 of this application has been amended to include the limitations of the variable width interface section 23 and a constant width region of flap portion 15, variable width interface region having a minimum width set to the width of the smallest paint brush desired to be covered by the device of the present invention. Support for these limitations are found on page 5, l. 8 – p.6, l. 10. This limitation is different than the limitation described in Davis.

Davis shows a constant width wrap portion and flap portion, thus accommodating a paint brush with a width smaller than the width of flap portion would require excess folds. To the contrary, the device of the present invention incorporates both a constant width and variable width regions for flap portion 15. Thus, one device can be used to accommodate paint brushes of varying widths without requiring excess folds.

Claim 1 has been further amended to include the limitation that paint brushes of different lengths can be accommodated by the device of the present invention. Support for this amendment can be found on p.6, l. 23 – p. 7, l. 1.

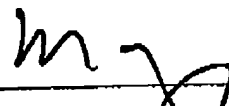
Claim 1 has also been amended to include that the means for securing a paint brush within the device function by supporting underneath the handle of an inserted paint brush which are removably attached to the external surfaces of said wrap portion and said flap portion. Davis discloses a device surrounding the handle of the paint brush, which is a different limitation than that of claim 1 of the present application.

The limitations of Claim 2 have been incorporated into Claim 1 and the applicant has deleted Claim 2 accordingly.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has further rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by Nielson. Again, based on the amendments to claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Nielson, like Davis, does not describe a flap portion having a constant width region and a variable width region, but rather describes, with reference to Figure 6, "variously sized dies or outlines that may be used for the manufacturing the brush retainers of this invention" (col. 3, ll- 40-41). Thus, a different cover must be used for each differently shaped brush. Again, the novelty of the device of the present invention is such that one brush cover can be used for a multitude of differently sized paint brushes.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 5 of the present application as being obvious in view of Nordstrom and Davis, or Nielsen et al. Based on the amendments to claim 1 and the preceding comments, the applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn and that the application is in condition for allowance.

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I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A paint brush cover comprising:

- 5 a. a substantially quadrilaterally shaped wrap portion being made of a durable, flexible material, said wrap portion including right, middle and left sections, all of said sections having an internal surface and an external surface, and all of said sections being ~~capable of being able~~ to be folded over each other, said middle section having a first edge and a second edge;
- 10 b. a flap portion being made of said durable, flexible material having a first edge, a flexible interface region, a constant width region, an internal surface and an external surface, said flap portion capable of being placed in a folded formation such that it covers at least a portion of said wrap portion and capable of covering paint brushes of different lengths, said flexible interface region of said flap portion being integrally attached to said first edge of said middle section said interface region having a varying
- 15 width to accommodate paint brushes of different sizes, side interface region having a minimum width set to the width of the smallest paint brush desired to be covered by said device; and
- 20 c. means for securing said flap portion in place when in said folded formation, said means for securing contemporaneously securing a paint brush within said wrap portion said means for securing being removeably attached to said external surface of said middle section to be extended under the handle of a paint brush and removeably attached to said external surface of said flap portion. each of said means for securing being

positioned on opposite sides of a handle of said paint brush upon covering.

~~2. (Currently Deleted) The paint brush cover of claim 1, wherein said interface region has a varying width to accommodate paint brushes of different sizes.~~

3. (Original) The paint brush cover of claim 1, wherein said means for securing said flap portion to said wrap portion and securing said paint brush within said wrap portion is comprised of a coordinated fastening system having a hook component and a loop component, one of said hook and loop components being attached to one of said external surface of the top region of said flap portion or said external surface of the bottom region of said middle section, the other of said hook and loop components being attached to the other of said regions.

4. (Original) The paint brush cover of claim 1, wherein said durable material is canvas.

5. (Original) The paint brush cover of claim 1, further comprising a lining attached to said internal surface of said durable, flexible material